



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

*real places telling real stories*

# Architectural Styles: Residential





# Architectural Style

## Architectural Style:

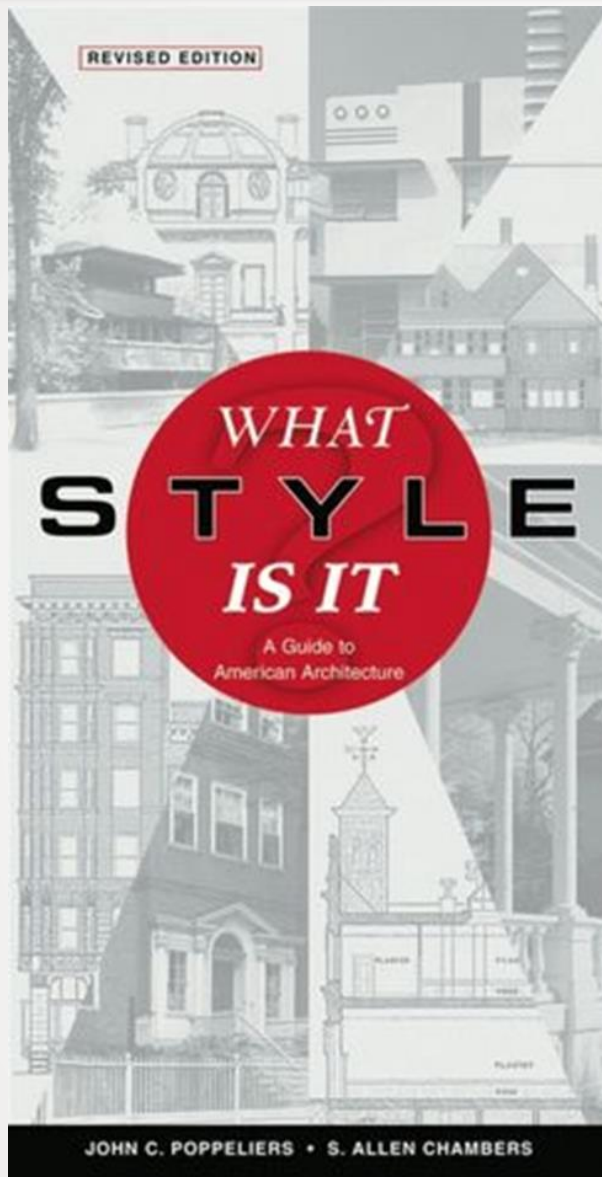
- Domestic buildings fall into two categories:
  - Folk
  - Styled
- Most American houses are styled: built with some attempt to being fashionable, showing the influence of shapes, materials, detailing of styles in current vogue.







# Architectural Style



Style: “A definite type of architecture, distinguished by special characteristics of structure and ornament.”

- Essentially visual, not related to function
- Distinct from historical periods
- Many buildings defy stylistic labels
- Sophisticated examples serve as models for simpler buildings





# Architectural Styles

## Reference Materials

### Stylistic Influences: Residential Buildings

- *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Architectural Styles* (Marcus Whiffen)
- *Identifying American Architecture* (John J. G. Blumenson)
- *What Style Is It?* (John Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, Nancy B. Schwartz)
- *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Virginia and Lee McAlester)

## A Field Guide to American Houses

The best-selling classic by Virginia and Lee McAlester now revised and expanded to include homes built after 1940 and a new section on how to "read" a neighborhood

The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture



Virginia Savage McAlester



# Architectural Styles

## FOLK

- Native American
- Pre-Railroad
- National

## COLONIAL STYLES

- Early Spanish, French, English, Dutch
- Georgian
- Federal/Adam
- Early Classical Revival

## ROMANTIC STYLES

- Greek Revival
- Gothic Revival
- Italianate
- Exotic Revivals
- Octagon

## VICTORIAN-ERA STYLES

- Second Empire
- Stick/Eastlake
- Queen Anne
- Shingle

- Richardsonian Romanesque
- Folk Victorian

## ECLECTIC

- Colonial Revival
- Neoclassical
- Tudor
- Chateausque
- Beaux Arts
- French Eclectic

## MEDITERRANEAN

- Italian Renaissance
- Mission
- Spanish Eclectic
- Monterey
- Pueblo Revival

## MODERN STYLES

- Craftsman
- Prairie
- Modernistic: Art Deco/Art Moderne
- International



# Architectural Styles

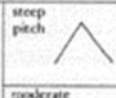
## Pictorial Key

Walls		TRY THESE FIRST
IF YOU SEE		
logs		Pre-Railroad Folk
half-timbering		Tudor, Craftsman, Queen Anne, French Eclectic, Prairie
adobe		Pueblo Revival, Spanish Colonial
rough-faced stone		Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle (first story only)
smooth stone		Beaux Arts, Chateausque, Italian Renaissance
stucco		Tudor, Mission, Spanish Eclectic, Prairie, Modernistic, International, Italian Renaissance, French Colonial, occasionally in most other styles
patterned wood shingles		Queen Anne, Shingle, Folk Victorian
plain wood shingles		Shingle, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Postmedieval English
patterned stick-work on walls		Stick, Queen Anne, Exotic Revival (Swiss)

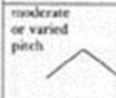
## Roof form

IF YOU SEE

TRY THESE FIRST



Tudor, Gothic Revival, Stick, Queen Anne, French Colonial, Postmedieval English



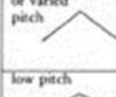
Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam, Early Classical Revival, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, Shingle, National Folk, Pre-Railroad Folk



Craftsman, Spanish Eclectic, Italianate, Monterey, Greek Revival, Dutch Colonial, Spanish Colonial, Adam



Gothic Revival, Stick, Queen Anne, less commonly Tudor



National Folk, Shingle, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, less commonly Colonial Revival

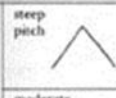
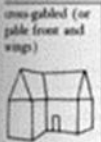


Greek Revival, Italianate, Craftsman, less commonly Spanish Eclectic

## Roof form

IF YOU SEE

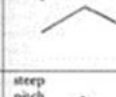
TRY THESE FIRST



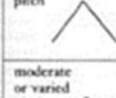
Tudor, Queen Anne, Stick, Gothic Revival



Shingle, National Folk, Early Classical Revival



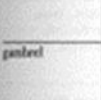
Craftsman, Spanish Eclectic, Greek Revival, Monterey



Gothic Revival



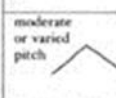
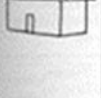
Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam



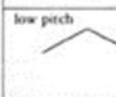
Italianate, Italian Renaissance, Beaux Arts



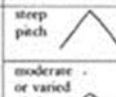
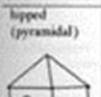
Dutch Colonial, Shingle, Colonial Revival, Georgian



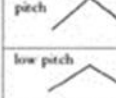
French Eclectic, Chateausque, French Colonial



Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam, Early Classical Revival, Folk Victorian, Mission, Neoclassical



Chateausque, French Eclectic



National Folk, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Folk Victorian, Mission



Prairie, Italianate

mansard



Second Empire, Beaux Arts, Richardsonian Romanesque

hipped with cross gables



Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle

flat



Beaux arts, Italian Renaissance, Adam (rare), town house subtypes

symmetrical



International, Modernistic, Pueblo Revival, Spanish Eclectic, Spanish Colonial, town house subtypes

asymmetrical



Georgian, Colonial Revival, Mission

pent or visor



Georgian, Colonial Revival, Mission

## Roof-wall junction

IF YOU SEE

TRY THESE FIRST

parapet on flat roof (wall extends up beyond roof edge)



Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Pueblo Revival, Spanish Eclectic, Mission, Modernistic, International, Spanish Colonial

parapet on gabled roof



Tudor, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Mission, French Colonial

no eaves (little or no overhang)



International, Modernistic, Spanish Eclectic, Postmedieval English

slight eave overhang, boxed with moldings, dentils, or other classical moldings



Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Adam, Georgian, French Eclectic, Early Classical Revival, Chateausque, Italian Renaissance

slight eave overhang, open, not boxed



Stick, Gothic Revival

slight eave overhang with brackets















































Second Empire, Folk Victorian, Italianate





# Architectural Styles

Roof-wall junction			shaped		Mission, Queen Anne, Tudor
IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST				
slight eave overhang with wide band of trim below		Greek Revival	Other roof elaborations		
wide eave overhang, boxed without brackets		Prairie	towers, square		Italianate, Stick, Second Empire, occasionally Queen Anne, Mission, Italian Renaissance
wide eave overhang, boxed with brackets		Italianate, Italian Renaissance, Prairie, occasionally Mission	towers, round		Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Chateausque, Shingle, French Eclectic, occasionally Spanish Eclectic
wide eave overhang, open, not boxed		Craftsman, Mission	roof-top cupolas		Italianate, Octagon, Second Empire, Greek Revival
Dormers					
IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST				
hipped		Prairie, French Eclectic, Shingle	decorated verge boards		Tudor, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne
gabled		Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Adam, Georgian, Shingle, Queen Anne, Stick, Gothic Revival, Tudor, Chateausque, French Eclectic	trusses in gables		Craftsman, Stick, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Tudor
shed		Dutch Colonial, Craftsman, Colonial Revival	false beams at gable end		Craftsman, Prairie
arched top		French Eclectic, Second Empire, Beaux Arts	flared eaves		French Eclectic, French Colonial, Prairie, Stick, Dutch Colonial, Craftsman
round or oval		French Eclectic, Beaux Arts	multi-level eaves		Tudor, Shingle, French Eclectic, others occasionally
pedimented		Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam	tile roof	rounded tiles, usually red	Spanish Eclectic, Mission, Italian Renaissance, Prairie
wall dormers		Gothic Revival, Chateausque, Richardsonian Romanesque, Mission	flat pantiles		Tudor, occasionally Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Italian Renaissance
eyebrow		Shingle, Richardsonian Romanesque	exposed rafters		Craftsman, Stick, Mission, occasionally Prairie or Gothic Revival

Other roof elaborations		Doors			
IF YOU SEE	TRY THIS FIRST	IF YOU SEE	TRY THIS FIRST		
pinacles		Chateausque, Richardsonian Romanesque	transom lights		Georgian, Colonial Revival, Pre-Railroad Folk
cancellations		Gothic Revival, Tudor	round fanlight or elliptical fanlight with sidelights		Adam, Colonial Revival, Early Classical Revival, Neoclassical
roof-top or roof-line balustrade		Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Adam, Georgian, Beaux Arts, Early Classical Revival, Italian Renaissance	rectangular transom and side lights		Greek Revival, Neoclassical
metal roof cresting		Queen Anne, Chateausque	six- to eight-panel door		Adam, Georgian, Colonial Revival, Early Classical Revival
			board-and-batten door		Postmedieval English, Spanish Colonial, Tudor, Spanish Eclectic, Pueblo
Arched doors, windows, porches					
IF YOU SEE	TRY THIS FIRST				
segmental		Georgian, Adam, Colonial Revival, Italianate	pilasters to sides of door (may have pediment)		Georgian, Adam, Early Classical Revival, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Chateausque, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, French Eclectic
round		Italian Renaissance, Italianate, Richardsonian Romanesque, Spanish Eclectic, less common in Adam, Colonial Revival, Beaux Arts, Mission, Tudor	pediment		Colonial Revival, Georgian, Neoclassical, Italian Renaissance, Beaux Arts, Italianate, Greek Revival (triangular only)
Syrian		Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle	broken pediment		
pointed (Gothic)		Gothic Revival	Windows		
Tudor (battened Gothic)		Tudor, Gothic Revival	IF YOU SEE	TRY THIS FIRST	
half-round (elliptical)		Chateausque, Beaux Arts, Italianate	casement		Prairie, Tudor, Spanish Eclectic, Postmedieval English, Dutch Colonial, Modernistic, International (metal only)
ogee		Exotic Revivals, Chateausque	Palladian		Adam, Queen Anne (free classic), Shingle, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical



# National Folk

After 1850-1890

Medium-pitched roof

Minimal to medium eave overhang

Simple and minimal detailing

One to two stories in height

Six house shapes:

- Gable-front,
- Gable-front-and-wing,
- Hall-and-parlor,
- I-house,
- Massed-plan/side-gabled,
- Pyramidal







# National Folk







# Greek Revival

1825-1860

Gable or hipped roof with low pitch

Cornice line emphasized with wide band of trim

Full-width or entry porch supported by Classical columns (typically Doric)

Front door with sidelights and transom windows

Symmetrical facade







# Greek Revival







# Colonial Revival

1880-1955

Windows with sashes, usually with multi-pane glazing in one or both sashes

Windows frequently in adjacent pairs

Accentuated front door, normally with decorative crown supported by pilasters or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form entry porch

Sidelights and transom windows may be present



Façade typically symmetrically balanced windows and central door





# Colonial Revival







# Neoclassical/Classical Revival

1895-1950

Façade dominated by full-height porch supported by Classical columns (typically Ionic or Corinthian)

Elaborate detailing on cornice lines, doors, and windows

Front door with sidelights and transom windows

Symmetrically balanced facade







# Italianate

1840-1885

Low-pitched roof

Widely overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets

Tall narrow windows commonly arched above

Frequently with elaborated window crowns

Quoins



Two or three stories (rarely one story)



# Italianate







# Second Empire

1855-1885

Mansard roof with  
dormer windows,  
often with iron  
cresting and  
decorative patterns  
and colors

Molded cornices,  
often with  
decorative brackets  
under eaves

Detailing such as  
hooded windows,  
belt coursing,  
and quoins





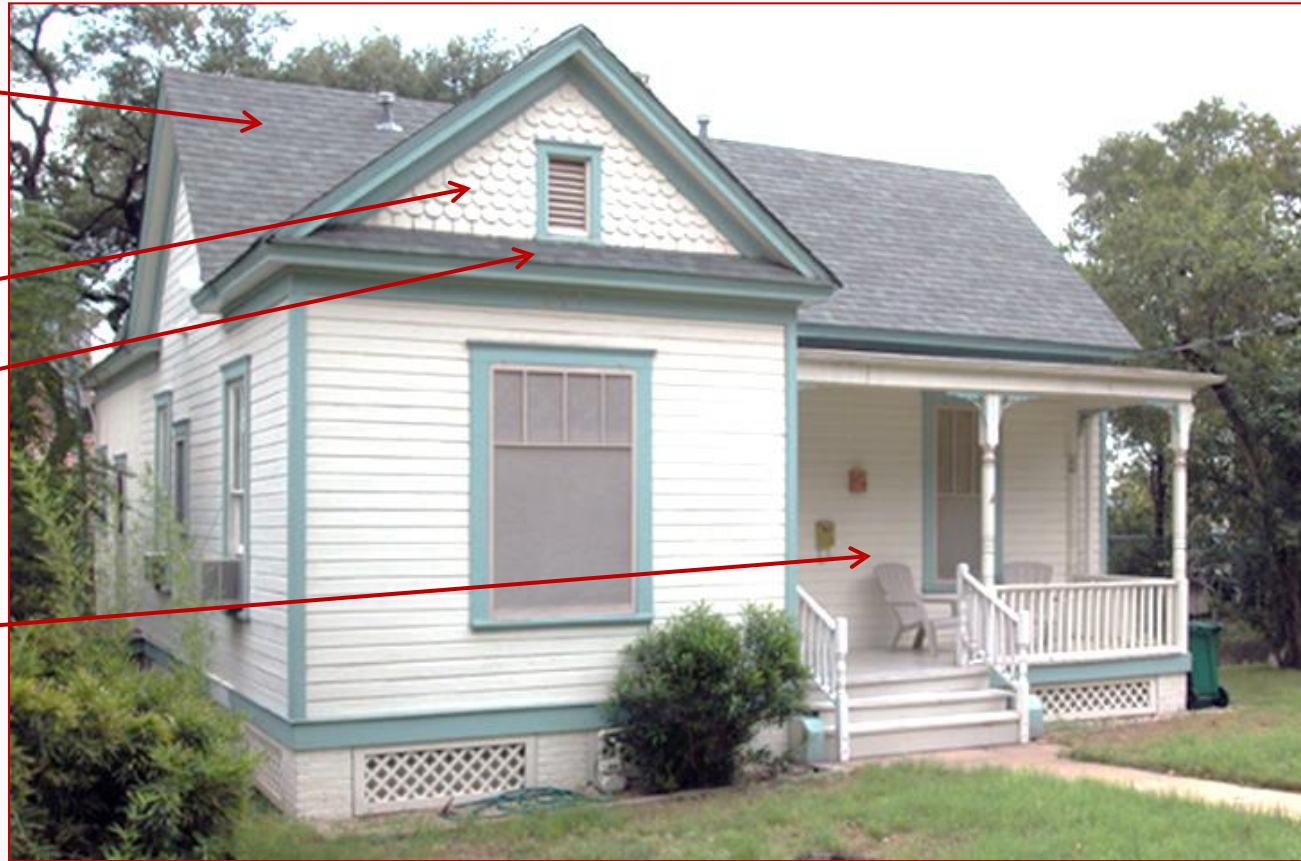
# Folk Victorian

1870-1910

Medium-pitched  
gabled roof

Decorative shingles  
in gable ends, often  
with pent roofs

Porch set into ell,  
often with decorative  
posts, brackets, and  
railings







# Folk Victorian







# Queen Anne

1880-1910

Steeply pitched roof or irregular shape

Intricate detailing or ornamentation: spindlework, jigsawn trim, cresting, finials, etc.

Partial or full-width asymmetrical porch, usually one-story high and extended along one or both side walls

Textured surfaces used to avoid smooth-walled appearance

Asymmetrical facade







# Queen Anne







# Tudor Revival

1890-1940

Steeply pitched gables dominate the façade

Substantial chimney with decorative cap and chimney pots

Groups of tall narrow windows, often multi-paned

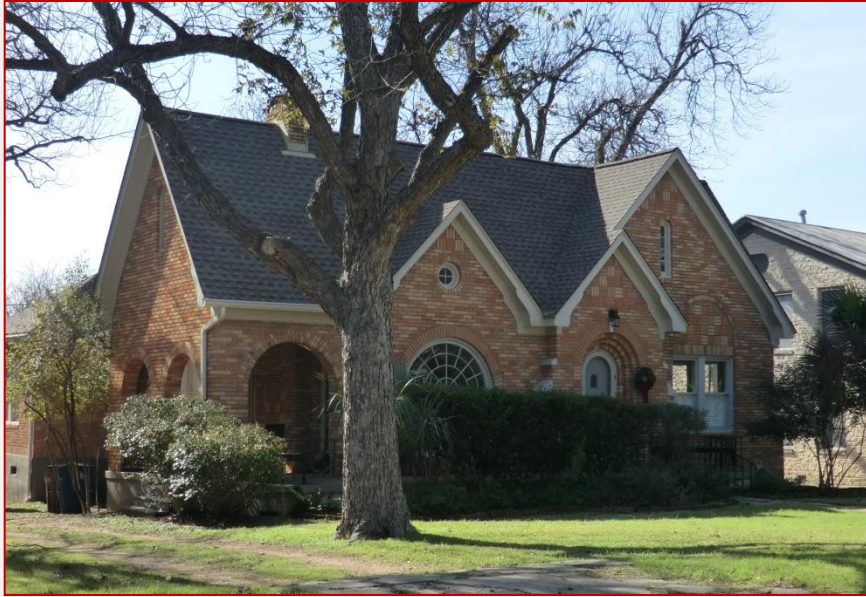
Asymmetrical facade







# Tudor Revival







# Mission

1890-1920

Mission-shaped  
dormer or roof  
parapet

Red tile roof with  
overhanging  
eaves

Stucco wall  
finish

Porch supported  
by large square  
piers, commonly  
with arches







# Spanish Eclectic

1915-1940

Low-pitched red  
tile roof, with little  
or no overhang

Stucco wall finish

Asymmetrical façade





# Spanish Eclectic







# Monterey

1925-1955

Low-pitched gabled roof

Second-story balcony,  
usually cantilevered  
and covered by  
principal roof

Visible beams  
supporting balcony

Asymmetrical  
façade

Two stories





# Craftsman

1905-1930

Eave brackets

Low-pitched gabled roof

Exposed rafters

Porch supported by square columns or piers (often tapered)

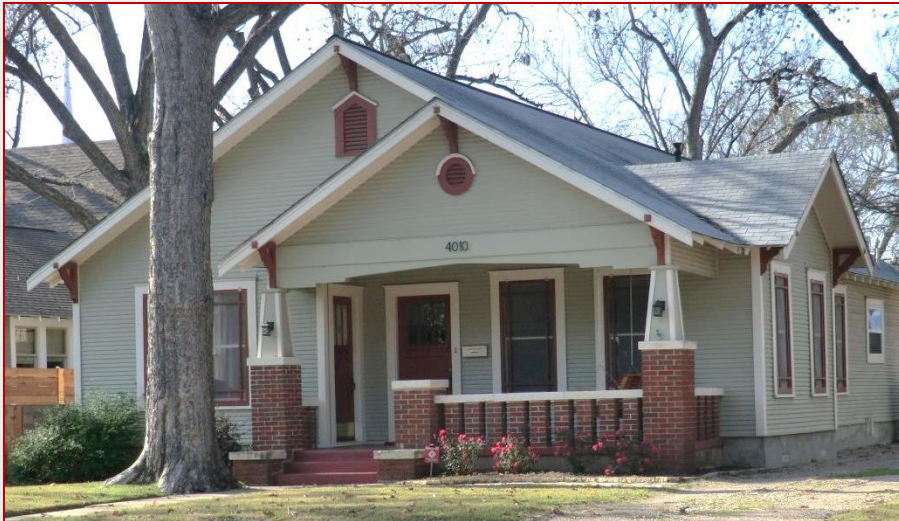
Masonry column bases continuous to ground, no break at porch floor







# Craftsman







# Not Craftsman







# International Style

1925-present

Flat roof, usually  
without coping

No decorative  
detailing

Smooth unornamented wall  
surface

Windows usually metal  
casements set flush with  
outer walls, sometimes  
wrapping around corners

Asymmetrical facade







# International







# Minimal Traditional

1925-present

Low to medium  
pitched roof

Minimal eave  
overhang

Often with front-facing  
gable

Typically small one-  
story residences

Minimal detailing







# Minimal Traditional







# Ranch

1935-1975

Low-pitched  
roof

Carport or  
garage  
incorporated  
under main  
roof

Asymmetrical  
façade

Low,  
horizontal  
lines



Variations: no carport/garage, with carport or garage (1-car or 2-car)





# Ranch







# Contemporary

1940-1980

Flat or low-pitched gabled roof

Deep overhangs, often with exposed roof beams



Ribbon windows and fixed glass

Low, horizontal lines on asymmetrical facade

Variations: carport or garage (1-car or 2-car) on the side





# Contemporary







# Stylistic Influences: No Style

More common in the real world: no dominant style

Craftsman Style  
roof: low pitch,  
exposed rafters

Form is more  
Greek Revival:  
porch under main  
gable, classically  
inspired  
entablature and  
columns



“No Style with Craftsman and Greek Revival influences”





# Architectural Styles







# Contact Information

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

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